

Berlin Wall

With the aim of preventing East Germans from seeking asylum in the West, the East German government in 1961 began constructing a system of concrete and barbed-wire barriers between East and West Berlin. This Berlin Wall endured for nearly 30 years, a symbol not only of the division of Germany but of the larger conflict between the Communist and non-Communist worlds. The wall ceased to be a barrier when East Germany ended restrictions on emigration in November 1989. The wall was largely dismantled in the year preceding the reunification of Germany.

Bibliography: Gelb, Norman, *The Berlin Wall* (1987); Merritt, R. L. and A. J., eds., *Living with the Wall* (1985).